

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

30. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting a keratinous fiber from extrinsic damages or repairing a keratinous fiber following extrinsic damage comprising

applying to said keratinous fiber a composition comprising at least one sugar chosen from C3 to C5 monosaccharides xylose and derivatives thereof; and

wherein said xylose is present in said composition at a concentration ranging from 0.01% to 5.00% relative to the total weight of the composition.

~~heating said keratinous fiber to at least 45°C,~~

~~wherein said at least one sugar is present in an amount effective to protect said keratinous fiber or repair said keratinous fiber,~~

~~further wherein said composition is applied prior to said heating during said heating,~~

~~wherein protecting a keratinous fiber means preserving a greater degree of the structure and/or tensile strength of the keratinous fiber following treatment of the keratinous fiber with said composition as compared to not treating the keratinous fiber with said composition; and~~

~~wherein repairing a damaged keratinous fiber means increasing the  $\alpha$ -structure and/or tensile strength of the damaged keratinous fiber following treatment~~

~~of the damaged keratinous fiber with said composition as compared to not treating the keratinous fiber with said composition.~~

31-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional sugar, said at least one additional sugar being different than said ~~C3 to C5 monosaccharides~~ xylose and derivatives thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said at least one additional sugar is chosen from monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said monosaccharides are chosen from hexoses.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein said hexoses are chosen from allose, altrose, glucose, mannose, gluose, idose, galactose, talose, sorbose, psicose, fructose, and tagatose.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said at least one additional sugar is present in said composition at a concentration ranging from 0.01% to 5.00% relative to the total weight of the composition.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition is in the form of a liquid, oil, paste, stick, dispersion, emulsion, lotion, gel, or cream.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said keratinous fiber is chosen from hair, eyelashes, and eyebrows.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said extrinsic damage is caused by heating, UV radiation, or chemical treatment.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition protects a keratinous fiber from extrinsic damages and repairs a keratinous fiber following extrinsic damage.